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USEFUL ARTS

342 *pirpo*

lower of two cross-pieces at ends of hut, and across at each house-post. Any kind of wood may be used for these.

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tokoman

upper of two cross-pieces at ends and at house-posts.

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*a tō*sago palm whose leaves are used for thatch. Thatch also called *a tō*.*nin*outer bark of stem of plant of that name used to tie sheets of thatch to the *wakwal*.*gerom* or*girum*

mid-rib of sago-palm leaf, used to fix leaves together in lengths to make thatch.

tʃir a tō

to prepare the sago-palm leaves by taking out the mid-rib.

hisib

to make the holes for fixing the leaves together.

tʃiku a tō

to fix the leaves together into lengths ready to put on.

The men's house.

342 The men's house (*tobār*) is made in exactly the same way as the ordinary huts of the village; the size varies according to the number of people who are likely to use it. Besides serving as the sleeping apartment for the boys wearing the *upi*, the *tobār* is the men's club; its front verandah is seldom without a group of men sitting or standing round talking and chewing the betel mixture. To it male guests from other villages are taken on their arrival, each to the *tobār* of the clan to which he belongs.

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The *tobār*, two or more, as the case may be, are sometimes placed just outside the main line of huts, from which they may be screened by a hedge of trees or a bit of uncut bush. But often they are placed in the centre of the village, abutting on, or actually in the precincts of, the central space where dances are held. The three *tobār* of the original village of Kurtatchi were a little to one side of the village, and had special paths leading from them to the shore, which might not be used by women, who avoided their vicinity altogether. The two which were constructed after the moving of the village of Gomen to join that of Kurtatchi, were built at one end of the central space, between the two lines of huts added by the Gomen people. The hut of a man who had died was taken down to make room for them, the boys who had shared it with him being afraid to go on living there. Even in that prominent position, the *tobār* were strictly avoided by the women, who always made their way round by the back of the lines of huts.

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Ceremony on completion of tobār. The completion of a new *tobār* is signalized by a feast involving the killing of several pigs,